

Do not let the Bell "Wolves" own the chicken coop you already allow them to dominate. I know of at least one instance where an ISP has had service delayed indefinitely for the provisioning of a T1 line that they wished to establish in another location. Currently provisioning for DSL at the residential level has a much shorter delay for the users of the local bell (SBC, nee Ameritech) than for their competitors. Ameritech was even cited by the State of Ohio for its poor service practices that, in my mind, constitute monopolistic practices and the high prices associated with them. Competition requires competitors to be alive. If the FCC lifts the dominant classification from the Local Exchange Carriers (Bells), it will limit competition to a duopoly consisting of a bell and a cable company at best. Competition in the American Telecom marketplace will not be incentivized, it will be torpedoed. ISPs and CLECs will die, consumers will be deprived of choice and the FCC will be wholly to blame for the travesty. DO NOT DO IT. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country. Further, I urge that the re emergence of a larger bell holding company, SBC, hints of dark days to come once more, where Ma Bell ruled the telecom industry and all had to bow before her power.